

March 21, 1996

LB 1176
LR 292

valuation method for motor vehicles is the clunker tax, which would tend to spread out the property taxes on motor vehicles, lowering them at the front end, and then making them more even over the life of the automobile. I don't know that I support that. But if we should end up doing something like that, I think we need to leave ourselves and the Legislature enough flexibility in distributing those funds to make sure that the impact of changing the method of valuation is not so severe on one county or another, or one political subdivision or another because of the restriction that's in the constitution presently with respect to the distribution and the funds. So, for that reason, I think that if we are going to look at LB 1176, which Senator Bernard-Stevens correctly pointed out, will not be debated this year, but I suspect similar proposals will be on the table in future years, if we're going to consider something like that, and again I'm not saying I endorse any approach until I know the specifics of how the valuation system would change, but if we are going to enact something like that I think the Legislature needs the flexibility to determine the distribution formula of the proceeds from that tax. So, for that reason, I would oppose the Bernard-Stevens amendment and support the current provision in LR 292. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I think Senator David Bernard-Stevens, in his opening, in describing this amendment probably was very correct in saying that this language should be in this amendment, and the change probably should be made. And I think he'll be very happy to know that I will join him in voting red on this amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I'm still trying to figure out if that means Senator Elmer is with Senator Bernard-Stevens or against him. I didn't figure that out. But there are two things I want to point out with regards to this amendment. One of them is Senator Bernard-Stevens talked about we're going to eliminate townships in other bills. We don't eliminate townships, what we're doing is taking away their constitutional standing and then we're going to do other things with their levy limitations, and eventually we'll be doing those other things. But that's